Fake currency notes supplied to militants

† 1720. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake currency notes are supplied by the Kashmiris to the terrorists hiding in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to curb such activities, so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) Available information indicates that Indian fake currency notes are being clandestinely inducted into the country from across the Indo-Pak Border, Indo-Nepal Border and the Bangladesh-Myanmar Border. This is being done through smugglers, pilgrims and terrorists and insurgent groups. During the last three years *viz.* 1999 to 2001 (up to 15.11.2001) 40 cases of circulation of fake currency have been registered in J&K.

(b) and (c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. As such registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. It is for the State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps to counter such activities.

The Union Government have taken the following steps to curb this menace:—

(i) The Central Bureau of Investigation has created a special unit for exclusive investigation of counterfeit currency notes. The Border Security Force has alerted its forward troops to be more vigilant so as to ensure that such currency notes are not smuggled into the country.

(ii) A High Level Committee has been constituted with representatives from the Department of Economic Affairs, Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Home Affairs/ National Security Council Secretariat, to go into the entire gamut of issues pertaining to the circulation of fake Indian currency.

(iii) A six-member Fact Finding Committee was set up under the convenorship of Shri V.K. Gaikward, Dy. General Manager, RBI, comprising experts on note-printing/ currency paper etc. for examining

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the fake notes seized in the past in order to enable the Government to take remedial action *vis-a-vis* printing and security features. The Committee has submitted its report.

(iv) RBI has been advised to go in for a publicity campaign about security features incorporated in the genuine notes.

The Reserve Bank of India has taken the following steps:

(1) The security features of Rs. 500 denomination notes has been widely publicized in the print media to help the people detect fake notes.

(2) A film on security features of Rs. 500 denomination notes produced in English, Hindi and other regional languages has been telecast on Doordarshan.

(3) For the benefit of public, a booklet has been brought out which *inter-alia,* describes the features of genuine notes. This booklet has been placed on the RBI website besides being available to the public for sale at RBI's issue offices.

(4) RBI has also offered to impart training to officials in the State Governments in the detection of fake currency notes.

The Ministry of External Affairs have been taken up the matter with Government of Nepal. Both the sides have expressed determination to take urgent necessary steps to prevent the misuse of Nepalese territory for activities directed against India.

Instructions are also issued to all State Governments, from time to time to take appropriate measures for curbing the menace of circulation of fake currency notes.

Gangs engaged in fake currency notes in Delhi

†1721. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gangs apprehended engaged in printing and circulation of fake currency notes in Delhi during the current year;

(b) whether any evidence has been found with regard to connection of these gangs with the terrorists and underworld criminals; and

(c) whether the Crime Branch of Delhi Police is conducting a special drive against the criminals indulging in the circulations of fake currency notes?

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